

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

YAMAMOTO et al

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Application No.: New Application

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: May 14, 2001

Attorney Dkt. No.: 024190-00000

For: INFORMATION ACCESS METHOD AND NETWORK SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 14, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to initial examination of the application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2-4, 8, 10, 13 and 15 as follows. A copy of the marked up original claims is attached to this response showing the changes as set forth in amended 37 CFR 1.121.

2. (Amended) The information access method of claim 1, wherein said first server has a Web mail server function, and wherein information is exchanged between said first server and a wire or wireless communication device having a Web mailing function by Web mails while using said communication device as the originator terminal.

3. (Amended) An information access method comprising the steps of:

placing a first server capable of responding to access from a wire or wireless communication device within a network protected by a firewall;

connecting said first server with a second server located outside said network by a private line or a virtual private line;

loading a given application program into said second server;

causing said second server to activate and operate said application program according to commands which are generated by said wire or wireless communication device and which are included in access passed through said firewall; and

sending information about results of operation of said program to said wire or wireless communication device via said first server.

4. (Amended) The information access method of claim 2, wherein said communication device is a cellular phone.

8. (Amended) The network system of claim 6, wherein each of said first and second servers is designed so that, if a change in the common files of its own occurs, differential data before and after the change is sent to other server and that, if said differential data is received from the other server, the differential data is automatically copied into the common files of its own.

10. (Amended) The network system of claim 6, wherein said originator terminal is a wire or wireless communication device having a Web mailing function, and wherein said first server having a Web mail server function and responding to access implemented by said communication device by a Web mail.

13. (Amended) The network system of claim 11, wherein said first server further includes a means for creating a mobile address book which consists of addresses of a given number of persons extracted from an employee address book of said user enterprise and which will be presented on said wire or wireless communication device.

15. (Amended) The network system of claim 11, wherein

(A) said communication device is a cellular phone having a Web mailing function,

(B) said first server has a Web mail server function and responds to access from said cellular phone by a Web mail, and

(C) information about a fee required for reception is displayed on said cellular phone for each different kind of information to be processed.

Please add new claims 17-50 as follows:

--17. An information access method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a command from an originator to at least one first server positioned within a network;

receiving data based on said command, said data is at least one common file maintained in common on said at least one first server and on at least one second server outside the network; and

coupling said at least one first server with said at least one second server by a private line or a virtual private line;

wherein said command is transmitted from said originator to a first router, and said first router routes said command to a firewall.

18. The information access method of claim 17, said transmitting step further comprising the step of:

transmitting said command using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail.

19. The information access method of claim 17, said receiving step further comprising the step of:

receiving said data using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail.

20. The information access method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

authorizing access through said firewall to a second router, said second router encrypts said command; and

transmitting said command to said at least one first server based on encryption results.

21. The information access method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:
denying access through said firewall, said firewall determines that said command is unauthorized to access said network.

22. The information access method of claim 17, said transmitting step further comprising the step of:

transmitting said command from a mobile wireline or wireless communication device.

23. The information access method of claim 22, wherein said communication device is one of a notebook computer, cellular telephone, and personal digital assistant.

24. An information access method comprising the steps of:
positioning at least one first server within a network, said at least one first server stores at least one common file maintained in common with at least one second server positioned outside said network;

coupling said at least one first server with said at least one second server by a private line or a virtual private line;

securing said at least one first server with a firewall, said firewall having a network access control disposed therein;

receiving a command from an originator; and

transmitting said at least one common file to said originator.

25. The information access method of claim 24, said securing step further comprising the steps of:

authorizing access to said network through said firewall; and
accessing said at least one first server.

26. The information access method of claim 24, said securing step further comprising the step of:

denying access through said firewall, said firewall determines that said command is unauthorized to access said network.

27. The information access method of claim 24, said receiving step further comprising the step of:

receiving said command using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail.

28. The information access method of claim 24, said transmitting step further comprising the step of:

transmitting said at least one common file to said originator using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail.

29. The information access method of claim 24, said receiving step further comprising the step of:

receiving said command from a mobile wireline or wireless communication device.

30. The information access method of claim 29, wherein said communication device is one of a notebook computer, cellular telephone, and personal digital assistant.

31. The information access method of claim 24, said positioning step further comprising the step of:

positioning said at least one first server within at least one segment of said network, said at least one segment comprises a port for coupling said at least one first server with said at least one second server.

32. The information access method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:
comparing a first set of files stored in said at least one first server with a second set of files stored in said at least one second server, and

copying at least a portion of said second set of files to said first set of files so that said first set of files and said second set of files being identical.

33. The information access method of claim 32, further comprising the step of:
transmitting at least a portion of the first set of files to said at least one second server so that said first set of files and said second set of files being identical.

34. An information access method comprising the steps of:

coupling at least one first server within a network with at least one second server outside said network by a private line or a virtual private line;

securing said at least one first server with a firewall, said firewall having a network access control disposed therein;

receiving a command from an originator;

transmitting said command to said at least one second server, said at least one second server having data stored therein;

receiving a portion of said data from said at least one second server; and

transmitting said portion of said data to said originator.

35. The information access method of claim 34, further comprising the step of:
executing an application program stored in said at least one second server.

36. The information access method of claim 34, said receiving the command step further comprising the steps of:

authorizing access to said network through said firewall; and

accessing said at least one first server.

37. The information access method of claim 34, said receiving the command step further comprising the step of:

denying access through said firewall, said firewall determines that said command is unauthorized to access said network.

38. The information access method of claim 34, said receiving the command step further comprising the step of:

receiving said command using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail.

39. The information access method of claim 34, said transmitting the portion of the data step further comprising the step of:

transmitting said portion of said data to said originator using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail.

40. The information access method of claim 34, said receiving the command step further comprising the step of:

receiving said command from a mobile wireline or wireless communication device.

41. The information access method of claim 40, wherein said communication device is one of a notebook computer, cellular telephone, and personal digital assistant.

42. An information access method comprising the steps of:

coupling at least one first server within a network with at least one second server outside said network, said at least one second server having an application program stored therein;

coupling said at least one first server with said at least one second server by a private line or a virtual private line;

securing said at least one first server with a firewall, said firewall having a network access control disposed therein;

receiving a command from said at least one first server;

executing said application program; and

transmitting data obtained by the execution of said application program to said at least one first server.

43. The information access method of claim 42, said executing step further comprising the step of:

executing said application program based on said command.

44. The information access method of claim 42, further comprising the step of:

maintaining at least one common file on said at least one first server in common with said at least one second server.

45. The network system of claim 6, wherein said originator terminal is a wire or wireless communication device, and wherein said first server responding to access implemented by said communication device using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail.

46. The network system of claim 11, wherein

(A) said communication device is a cellular phone,

(B) said first server responds to access from said cellular phone using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail; and

(C) information about a fee required for reception is displayed on said cellular phone for each different kind of information to be processed.

47. The network system of claim 7, wherein each of said first and second servers is designed so that, if a change in the common files of its own occurs, differential data before and after the change is sent to other server and that, if said differential data is received from the other server, the differential data is automatically copied into the common files of its own.

48. The network system of claim 9, wherein each of said first and second servers is designed so that, if a change in the common files of its own occurs, differential data before and after the change is sent to other server and that, if said differential data is received from the other server, the differential data is automatically copied into the common files of its own.

49. The network system of claim 7, wherein said originator terminal is a wire or wireless communication device, and wherein said first server responding to access implemented by said communication device using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail.

50. The network system of claim 9, wherein said originator terminal is a wire or wireless communication device, and wherein said first server responding to access implemented by said communication device using one of the World Wide Web (WWW), e-mail and electronic mail.--

REMARKS

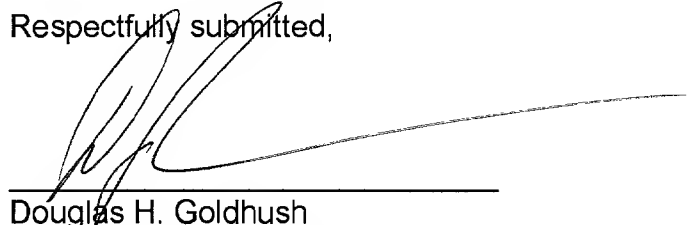
Claims 1-50 are pending in this application. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

This Preliminary Amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims, and is not submitted for reasons directed to patentability. This amendment is submitted to, as stated previously, more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Timely examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information access method comprising the steps of:

placing a first server within a network protected by a firewall;

connecting said first server with a second server located outside said network by a private line or a virtual private line;

taking at least some of files possessed by said first server and said second server as common files whose contents are maintained in common with each other; and

permitting information access to the common files in said first server, whereby an originator terminal that implements said access can gain information in the common files of said second server.

2. The information access method of claim 1, wherein said first server has a Web mail server function, and wherein information is exchanged between said first server and a ^{wire or wireless communication device} [wireless mobile terminal] having a Web mailing function by Web mails while using said ^{communication device} [wireless mobile terminal] as the originator terminal.

3. An information access method comprising the steps of:

placing a first server capable of responding to access from a ^{wire or wireless communication device} [wireless mobile terminal] within a network protected

by a firewall;

connecting said first server with a second server located outside said network by a private line or a virtual private line;

loading a given application program into said second server;

causing said second server to activate and operate said application program according to commands which are generated by said ^{wire or wireless communication device} [wireless mobile terminal] and which are included in access passed through said firewall; and

sending information about results of operation of said program to said ^{wire or wireless communication device} [wireless mobile terminal] via said first server.

4. The information access method of claim 2 ^{communication device} [or 3], wherein said [wireless mobile terminal] is a cellular phone.

5. The information access method of claim 1 or 3, wherein if said network has plural segments independent of each other, said first server is placed in each of said segments, and wherein accesses passed through said firewall are assigned to the first servers specified by said accesses.

6. A network system having a network protected by a firewall, comprising:

segments forming said network and including a first segment;

a first server placed in said first segment and capable of responding to access passed through said firewall;

at least some of said files being common files whose contents are maintained in common with each other; and

one of said first servers receiving said access and acting to search the common files held in this first server for corresponding information and to send the fetched information to an originator terminal implemented said access.

8. The network system of claim 6 [or 7], wherein each of said first and second servers is designed so that, if a change in the common files of its own occurs, differential data before and after the change is sent to other server and that, if said differential data is received from the other server, the differential data is automatically copied into the common files of its own.

9. A network system having a network protected by a firewall, comprising:

segments forming said network and including a first segment;

a first server placed in said first segment and capable of responding to access passed through said firewall;

said first segment having a connection port for connecting said first server with a second server located outside said network by a private line or a virtual private line;

said second server being loaded with a given application program;

said first server acting to cause said second server to activate and operate said application program according to commands included in said access, to gain information about results of operation of said program, and to send the gained information to an originator terminal implemented said access.

10. The network system of ^{Claim 6} [any one of claims 6-9], wherein said originator terminal is a ^{wire or wireless communication device} [wireless mobile terminal] having a Web mailing function, and wherein said first server having a Web mail server function and responding to access implemented by said ^{communication device} [wireless mobile terminal] by a Web mail.

11. A network system comprising:

a network protected by a firewall;

a first server of a user enterprise placed within said network;

a second server of said user enterprise placed outside said network, said first and second servers being interconnected by a private line or a virtual private line;

files held in said first and second servers, at least some of said files being in-house information files of said user enterprise whose contents are maintained in common with each other;

said network acting to authenticate access from a wireless mobile terminal controlled by an authenticated person;

said first server having a means for executing a copying task for maintaining said in-house information files of its

own in common with the contents of said second server; and

said first server further including means for executing at least one of reception processing for receiving information into said in-house information files of its own according to contents of said authenticated access, transmission processing for transmitting information contained in said in-house information files of its own, information search processing, and schedule processing for reading or entering an in-house schedule contained in said in-house information file of its own, whereby permitting communication with said wireless mobile terminal implementing said access.

12. The network system of claim 11, wherein said first server further includes a means for assisting transfer of information in the in-house information files among members of said user enterprise including said authenticated person.

13. The network system of claim 11, wherein said first server further includes a means for creating a mobile address book which consists of addresses of a given number of persons extracted from an employee address book of said user enterprise and which will be presented on said cell phone ^{wire or wireless communication device}.

14. The network system of claim 11, wherein said first server has a time-measuring means, and wherein when said schedule processing is performed, only data about scheduled events later than the present date or present time are subjected to said schedule processing.

15. The network system of claim 11, wherein

(A) said ^{Communication device} [wireless mobile terminal] is a cellular phone having a Web mailing function,

(B) said first server has a Web mail server function and responds to access from said cellular phone by a Web mail, and

(C) information about a fee required for reception is displayed on said cellular phone for each different kind of information to be processed.

16. The network system of claim 15, wherein said first server is designed to limit displayed information about destinations included in a document displayed on said cellular phone.